

whether we ought to be doing that. But we did it.

We presented it for the President. The President's men wouldn't come to a compromise. So what has happened is all the bills are finished except one bill. That bill can't be acted upon until Tuesday at the earliest. And the President is keeping us here to make a political point.

My preference would be, as Senator STEVENS said yesterday on the floor, he was considering amending the continuing resolution to provide for a 4-day continuing resolution which would carry us to Tuesday just to send to the President; then let the President sign it or veto it.

The difficulty with that is that the Government of the United States, the executive and legislative branches, are not exactly held in high esteem by the American people. And my instinct is that if we got into that sort of a situation, a game of chicken, a game which resembles a childish food fight, the people of America would say a plague on both of your Houses. It reminds me just a little bit of the confrontation that Piazza had with the Yankee pitcher. Piazza decided not to confront the Yankee pitcher after he threw a bat at Piazza. I think Piazza did the right thing, although people criticized him for not confronting the Yankee pitcher.

We are in a situation where the President is keeping us here so he can make a political point to try to have a democratically controlled Senate and a democratically controlled House and win the Presidency. We are not here doing the business of the people. We would be doing the business of the people if we attended our regular schedules and were free to do constructive work instead of sit around here on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday.

I do believe, Mr. President—speaking to the President of the Senate, Senator BENNETT, who is presiding—we have been intimidated. The President is doing this as a form of punishment, a form of humiliation. We have a lot of very delicate relationships with the executive branch. It has to linger in the background among some minds as to just what the executive branch is doing, whether they are operating in good faith.

I say bluntly, keeping the Congress in session without any purpose is the worst of bad faith. We will do our job notwithstanding the executive branch and the President's men and women exercising the worst of bad faith, but we won't forget about it.

I yield the floor, and I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNETT). The Senator from Nevada.

WORK OF THE SENATE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first of all, the President, I repeat, is doing the

right thing. The right thing is having Congress do its work. This is all a game.

Now if we could complete our work by Tuesday, it seems to me if people hung around here and did their work now—they said they have to start reading the bill—let them read it now. I also say if people want to expedite matters and challenge the President's authority, I am standing right where I am today and yesterday. I said we will agree on a voice vote to the tax bill and send it to the White House this afternoon. Nope, objections from the other side. They wouldn't let us do that. They wouldn't let us do that. They are here stalling for reasons that some of us are having a little trouble determining, but they are stalling. They have continued to stall. That is why we wouldn't get any appropriations bills passed until very recently.

My friend from Pennsylvania said there is no factual variance. I was going to run through some of those, but the analogy is something like this. He says we gave the President 90 percent of what he wanted. Whether that is right or not, the point is, it is like a football game. You go to the 10-yard line and you almost make a touchdown; does that mean you should get the score? The answer is no. The score should not be given to the majority because they have not done their work. They haven't even gotten to the 10-yard line.

I say Members should be here working. The President is saying we should work. We don't need to go home. Some of us have a long way to go to go home. We should be here doing our work. I think the American people understand that the President is equal to the Congress.

I don't know why the framers of this Constitution had article I the legislative branch, article II the executive branch, article III the judicial branch. They could have been reversed. It doesn't matter. They are separate but equal.

I am so thankful that the President recognizes his ability to take a look at what is going on here and say, "I don't like it." That is what he said. He doesn't like it and 46 of us over here, we don't like it either.

Because of that, we are in the position we are now in. No one is being humiliated. The word was used twice by the Senator from Pennsylvania. But, no one is being humiliated. The Constitution has been in effect for over 200 years. The President has an absolute right to do what he has done. If, in fact, the majority does not think the President will veto these bills, send them down and we will find out.

The problem is really that the bills are unfair. We have had very little input. We will let the American people decide who is right, whether President Clinton is right in doing what he is

doing or the Republicans are right, doing what they are doing. I think the American people will resoundingly proclaim that what has gone on over here has been not only procedurally unfair, it has been substantively unfair.

I also say, using Nevada as a State that doesn't need help—no one is asking that local control of schools be taken away. This is something the majority always uses. Only about 7 percent of what any school district in America gets comes from Washington. There is not a person on the Democratic side who says they want to take control away from local schools. We are saying that schools need some help in helping pay the interest on the bonds. The illustration I used was that the State of Nevada spends \$112 million in interest without paying a single penny on the principal. We are a small State, 2 million people. His State is 12 million people. We believe the people of America realize the school problems we have, the education problems in America are national in scope and Congress has to take a look at some of the national problems. Schools are crumbling, classes are too large, too many kids are dropping out of school. The solution the majority has is to take control away from public schools and put all the money in private schools; do what you can to damage and destroy public schools. We are not willing to do that. We believe that because the vast majority, in fact almost 95 percent, of kids go to public schools, we should do what we can to improve public schools.

Again, I think the Senator from Pennsylvania does an excellent job as chairman of that subcommittee. I understand his frustration. A lot of the control has been taken away from the subcommittee chairs and ranking members in these last days of Congress. The majority leadership is calling a lot of the shots. That is what we read about. The Democrats can only read about it because we are not in many of these negotiations. But the Senator's frustration does not take away from the fact that the President of the United States has done the right thing in saying Congress should be working this weekend, every day, until Congress completes it work.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

TAX CREDIT FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTIONS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to begin by commending the Senator from Nevada for his remarks, and to say that I agree with him and urge the President to veto the upcoming tax package. As written, the tax bill allocates tax breaks and tax benefits to many different interests and entities throughout America. While there are some good provisions in this bill, it could be more fair, more just and could